

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully responds to this Office Action.

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 1, 7, 12, 18, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, have been amended, and claims 22, 23 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice.

The present invention is a method and apparatus for providing multi-beam satellites for providing adequate beam coverage for a service area. The method and apparatus provides for a built in back or redundant system to continue the coverage in the event there is a failure in the primary system with a back up satellite. Both the primary satellite and the back up satellite continuously project beams. The back up system is accomplished by redirecting the beams of the back up satellite from its initial projection path to the failed satellites path. (See page 10 at paragraph [0047].

Claims 1-10, 12-14, 18-21 and 24-30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouffet, et al., in view of Farrell. These references were discussed in the previously filed response, thus a repeat discussion is not necessary. In the previous response the Applicant attempted to distinguish the operational elements between the presently claimed invention and the Rouffet, et al., device. There is one major difference between the systems. Rouffet, et al., describes a backup system that uses its backup's satellites full capability only when a failure occurs. Thus, the system detects a failure, then the backup satellite is made operative to project the backup beam. The backup beam is not empowered until a failure of the primary satellite occurs. In the present system, the satellites are projecting beams at all times. If a failure occurs in the primary satellite, the backup satellite's beam or beams are redirected to replace the beams not projected by the primary satellite due to the failure. To more clearly show this feature the independent claims have been amended to include the elements of both satellites continuously operating at full capacity. This feature is fully supported in the specification. It is the Applicants belief that the amendments will not require a new search. With these amendments, the rejections have been obviated and the claims are now allowable.

PATENT

Claims 11,15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouffet, et al., in view of Farrell. and in further view of Faineant, et al. These claims are dependent claims and due to the allowability of the independent claims, these claims are also allowable.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouffet, et al., in view of Farrell, and in further view of Faineant, et al., and in further view of Stetson, et. al. This claim is a dependent claim, and due to the allowability of the independent claims, this claim is also allowable.

Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouffet, et al., in view of Chandler. Claims 22 and 23 have been canceled.

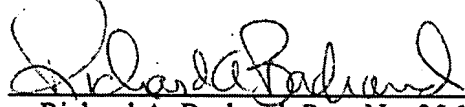
REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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